

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

USDOCONOUTH

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2849

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR TU CY

SUBJECT: AVLONA: TURKISH/UNFICYP CONFRONTATION

REF: NICOSIA 2798 (DTG 131525Z SEP 76)

1. UNFICYP OFFICIALS MET WITH "TFSC PRESIDENT" DENKTASH
AND "FOREIGN MINISTER" CHELIK ON SEPT 14 TO DISCUSS SEPT 10
INCIDENT AT AVLONA AND TO TRY TO REACH SOME ACCOMMODATION ON
FUTURE ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA. BOTH SIDES PRESENTED THEIR
RESPECTIVE VERSIONS OF INCIDENT WITHOUT APPARENTLY REACHING
CONSENSUS, BUT SEPT 14 MEETING DID RESULT IN
ONE CONCRETE
ACTION WHICH SHOULD HELP DIFFUSE THE SITUATION FOR TIME
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BEING. UNFICYP HAS AGREED UNDER PROTEST TO ALLOW A

TOKEN PRESENCE BY TURKISH FARMERS IN THE DISPUTED AREA FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD UNTIL THE MATTER CAN BE SOLVED AT POLITICAL LEVEL. SPECIFICALLY, 5 TO 10 TURK CYPRIOTS WILL BE ALLOWED TO CARRY OUT AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES NORTH OF THE 90 NORTHING LINE.

2. "TFSC" OFFICIALS ARE CHARACTERIZING SEPT 10 INCIDENT -- AND TURK CYPRIOT PRESS IS ENTHUSIASTICALLY FOLLOWING THEIR LEAD -- AS "ATTACK ON TURK CYPRIOT VILLAGERS BY THE BRITISH TROOPS OF THE UN PEACE FORCE." CHELIK TOLD PRESS THAT WHEN IN NEW YORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH TURKISH UNGA PREPARATIONS HE WILL MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO UNSYG PERSONALLY ON AVLONA. TFSC HAS ASKED FOR PUNISHMENT OF THOSE "RESPONSIBLE FOR INCIDENT" AND WILL BE ASKING FOR COMPENSATION FROM THE UNITED NATIONS BOTH FOR DAMAGES TO FARMING IMPLEMENTS AND FOR THE INJURED TURKISY CYPRIOT VILLAGERS.

3. IN A CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS SEPT 14, CHELIK VIGOROUSLY OUTLINED TURKISH VIEW OF THE SITUATION, ALLEGING THAT UNFICYP HAD ACTED WRONGLY IN USING VIOLENCE AGAINST CIVILIANS. CHELIK STRESSED THAT THERE WERE TWO PRIME CONSIDERATIONS IN AVLONA. THE FIRST WAS SECURITY. THE TURKS NEEDED A ONE-MILE-DEEP SECURITY ZONE IN THE AVLONA AREA BECAUSE OF THE TREE-FILLED TERRAIN AND THE SECURITY PROBLEM IT POSED. THAT WAS A MILITARY JUDGEMENT WHICH CIVILIANS WERE IN NO POSITION TO QUESTION. TURKS' SECOND CONCERN WAS THAT THE NATURE OF THE NO-MAN'S LAND BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD AND THAT USE OF PART OF IT BY THE GREEKS SHOULD NOT PREJUDICE ITS ULTIMATE POLITICAL OR LEGAL STATUS, WHICH COULD ONLY BE DETERMINED IN A NSXOTIATED SETTLEMENT. THE TURKISH POSITION WAS THAT EITHER BOTH SIDES HAVE A RIGHT TO USE THE BUFFER ZONE FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES WITHOUT PREJUDICING STATUS OF THE ZONE OR THAT NEITHER SIDE USES IT AT ALL. THE TURKISH SIDE WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED, CHELIK SAID, THAT THE STATUS QUO PRACTICES, WHICH TURKS HAD PROTESTED REPEATEDLY, (I.E., AGRICULTURAL USE OF LAND BY GREEK CYPRIOTS IN AREAS CLOSE TO TURKISH FORWARD DEFENSE LINE) NOT BECOME JUSTIFICATION FOR

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DEPRIVING TURKS OF THEIR RIGHTS TO FARM IN BUFFER ZONE. TURKS, MAINTAINED CHELIK, WERE BEING VERY REASONABLE BECAUSE THEY WERE ASKING FOR AGRICULTURAL USE OF ONLY ONE-THIRD OF DMZ IN AVLONA AREA.

4. COMMENT: FIRST, UNFICYP HAS PLACED ITSELF IN A VULNERABLE POSITION -- AND UNFICYP SOURCES PRIVATELY ADMIT THAT THEY ERRED TACTICLY -- BY TAKING THE

INITIATIVE TO USE PHYSICAL FORCE TO REMOVE TURK CYPRIOT "FARMERS". THIS HAS ALLOWED THE TURKISH AUTHORITIES TO COMPLAIN ABOUT UNFICYP "ATTACKS". SECOND, CHELIK'S REFERENCE TO TURKISH REQUEST FOR "ONE-THIRD" OF AVLONA DMZ AREA IS SOMEWHAT MISLEADING AND IS CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF THE WIDTH OF THE BUFFER ZONE AT ITS NARROWEST POINT, THAT IS, FROM THE SALIENT DIRECTLY SOUTH OF AVLONA TO THE GREEK FDL. UNFICYP, BY CONTRAST, MORE ACCURATELY CALCULATES THAT GIVING TURKS AGRICULTURAL USE OF LAND NORTH OF THE 90 NORTHING IN THE AVLONA REGION, AS THE TURKS HAVE REQUESTED, WOULD RESULT IN ABOUT HALF THE FARM LAND IN THE AVLONA DMZ REVERTING TO THE TURKS. CRAWFORD

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